

Bachelors of Arts Degree from Jersey City State College and a Masters Degree from Monmouth University. He has also continued to do graduate work at both Seton Hall University and Rider College.

Mr. Ferraina has had a long and brilliant career in education where it began as a Spanish teacher in the Long Branch Junior High School in 1973. By 1978, he became Assistant Principle only to be become Principle of the Middle School four years later. In 1992 Mr. Ferraina was chosen as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools in 1994. In 2000, he was given the honor of New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for his numerous innovative programs and practices.

Mr. Ferraina is an active member in the Long Branch Rotary Club where he has served as president. He is on the Monmouth Medical Center Board of Trustees and the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Ferraina is member of The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, the first aid squad, the Board of Directors of the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, and the Long Branch Free Public Library Board of Trustees. This is just a sampling of Mr. Ferraina's community based affiliations, and indicative of his commitment to serving the community.

Mr. Ferraina has been recognized on many occasions for his noble endeavors. In 1998 and 1999, he received a proclamation from New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman for offering BEST PRACTICES, which are outstanding and innovative school programs. Active in a variety of civic and educational organizations, he was named Principal of the Year by the Monmouth County Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association in 1991. Among many other awards and honors, Mr. Ferraina has received a Resolution of Appreciation from the City of Long Branch, the Community Involvement Award from the Knights of Pythias, the Community Service Commendation from the Superior Court of New Jersey, and the Humanitarian Award from the NAACP of Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that Mr. Ferraina has and continues to be an asset to his community for his tireless devotion to educating our youth. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Mr. Joseph M. Ferraina.

TAX ON DISABLED VETERANS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in condemning the gross injustice being perpetrated upon the greatest of American heroes, our disabled veterans.

Due to an antiquated law, more than 700,000 disabled veterans had been unable to receive both their compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their military retirement pay. We ended this disgraceful treatment for some of our disabled veterans with the passage of last year's De-

fense Authorization Act. Now, veterans with disability ratings of 60 percent and higher are eligible to receive a special compensation that offsets the egregious tax on disabled veterans. But thousands more are still waiting for relief.

Veterans are the only group of federal retirees who face such a punishing offset, levied against them simply for being disabled. This penalty is simply wrong. The retirees that it affects have already sacrificed too much in service to our country to have to forfeit their VA compensation.

H.R. 303, of which I am a proud cosponsor, is just the first step. This bipartisan legislation would allow retired members of the Armed Services with service-connected disabilities to collect the full veterans' disability compensation to which they are entitled. It guarantees that disabled retirees receive a fair benefit package, and its overwhelming support, has helped bring the issue of concurrent receipt to the forefront of our legislative agenda. Yet even with 370 cosponsors, the Republican leadership refuses to bring the bill to the Floor. We have launched a discharge petition to force H.R. 303 to be considered, and still they block us. There are 203 signatures on the petition, but the Republican leadership has warned its members not to sign on, so it is going to be a fight for the last 15 signatures. I say to you that this is a fight we must win.

Now, there is even talk of redefining what "disabled veteran" means. How dare anyone attempt to cheat veterans out of the benefits we promised and they rightly earned? It is unconscionable that Members of our own body are sabotaging attempts to correct an inequity. We must resist any move to restrict veterans' access to healthcare and compensation.

It is reprehensible that a Civil War era law is still robbing our veterans of fair compensation that is rightly theirs, and I call upon my colleagues to fight this embarrassing mistake and restore to our heroes just a small amount of what we owe them.

PERSECUTION, FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I continue today to bring to our colleagues attention human rights abuses in China provided here by the Laogai Research Foundation. They tell a desperately tragic story of a peoples thrown into harsh and brutal labor camps—without trial—who are then forced to do dangerous work, are regularly beaten, tortured, deprived of food and sleep, or summarily executed with their organs removed without the consent of the victims or their family. Many of the Chinese government's victims are religious men and women who, simply by wishing to follow their conscience, are considered a danger to the state.

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS" STATEMENTS ON FORCED LABOR, ORGAN HARVESTING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA PROVIDED BY LAOGAI RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Laogai is an integral part of China's economy, serving as a principal source of

cheap labor and organs. Its victims suffer from torture, arbitrary detainment, forced labor, organ harvesting, and execution.

Human rights groups have documented over 1,000 Laogai camps in China and estimate that the Laogai has a population of 4 to 6 million prisoners.

The Chinese Communist Party seeks to single out and eliminate all who "endanger state security." Thousands of political/religious prisoners are currently being imprisoned or otherwise detained, including China Democracy Party founders Wang Youcai and Qin Yongmin, Internet activists Yang Zili and Huang Qi, Tiananmen Square demonstrators, protestants, Catholics, Tibetan nuns and monks, journalists, academics, and Falun Gong practitioners.

There is little to deter those who inflict torture upon inmates of the Laogai. Confessions extracted through torture are routinely used to convict individuals in court. Forms of torture that are commonly documented in Chinese prisons include: use of electric batons, beating with fists and clubs, the use of handcuffs and leg irons in ways that cause intense pain, suspension by the arms, deprivation of food or sleep and solitary confinement.

According to conservative estimates, over 200,000 people are serving sentences in reeducation through labor (Laogiao) camps with no trial or sentencing procedure of any kind—all that is necessary is the directive of any official in China's Public Security Bureau.

All prisoners are forced to meet production quotas that are enforced through withholding of food rations. Many camps force prisoners to work 16 to 18 hours a day. Prisoners often labor in highly unsafe conditions, including work in mines and with toxic chemicals. Prisoners do not receive payment for their labor or any profit generated from the products they produce.

Forced labor is an integral part of China's economy, producing approximately \$800 million dollars in sales. Despite specific agreements that ban forced labor goods these goods continue to flow out of China. Cooperation by Chinese authorities has been characterized by the State Department as "sporadic, at best." Most requests to hold an investigation are either ignored or denied.

The Laogai's victims also suffer organ harvesting, and execution.

Despite the claims that prisoners give consent for the use of their organs for transplant, evidence suggests that an overwhelming majority of prisoners, or their families, never gave consent before execution.

Prisoners are shot in the back to preserve their corneas and shot in the head in order to preserve the heart.

Recently, China began implementing the use of mobile execution vans, similar to vans used in Nazi Germany prior to its use of concentration camps. The use of mobile execution vans will allow doctors to remove organs in a timely manner and a clean environment.

According to Amnesty International, China executes more prisoners every year than the rest of the world combined. In 2002, the State Department recorded over 4,000 executions after summary trials. Some scholars estimate that as many as 10,000–20,000 are executed yearly. According to the Chinese criminal law code there are over 60 capital offenses. Prisoners are executed for crimes ranging from murder to theft to arson to drug trafficking.

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Prisoners are occasionally executed in front of crowds in fields or stadiums.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE CARON FOUNDATION

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Caron Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide an enlightened and caring treatment community in which all those affected by alcoholism or other drug addiction may begin a new life.

The great work of this organization began when Richard J. Caron, an industrialist and recovering alcoholic from Reading, PA, and his wife Catherine, spent hours in their home "chit chatting" with people who came to them for help.

Dick published a newsletter, which he called Chit Chat, to reach out to others who needed support and an encouraging word. In 1957, after years of opening their home to those needing a guiding hand in recovery, they established a halfway house. Before long, this too proved to be inadequate to accommodate the many individuals who sought their counsel.

In 1959, the Carons purchased a historic resort hotel on South Mountain in Wernersville, PA, and opened Chit Chat Farms—a facility that has gained an international reputation for excellence as one of the first and foremost chemical dependency treatment centers in the United States.

Now in its fifth decade of providing quality services, Caron offers a full spectrum of gender-specific chemical dependency treatment programs to meet the needs of everyone—from adolescents to seniors. Today, the Caron Foundation, rooted in the "Chit Chat" tradition, stands as a beacon of hope to individuals and families whose lives have become unmanageable because of chemical dependency.

The Caron Foundation, one of the Nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit chemical dependency treatment providers, is located in a serene mountain setting in Berks County, PA. The Foundation is nearing completion of a 4-year \$16 million master campus improvement and renovation project. This facility will enable Caron Foundation to continue to serve thousands in need of help.

On Sunday, October 19, 2003, the Foundation will host an official campus dedication ceremony, appropriately themed, A Celebration of Growth and Change. John Schwarzlose, President and CEO of the Betty Ford Center will be the keynote speaker; among the honored guests will be the well-known philanthropist, Mrs. Leonore Annenberg.

This celebration will allow Caron's Board of Directors and leaders to recognize the many donors whose generosity and support made this project possible.

It will also provide Caron with an opportunity to showcase the newly constructed buildings, as well as the beautifully restored historic buildings that have been part of Caron's history for more than 45 years.

It's time that we pay proper tribute to the people and organizations that make such a profound difference in the lives of people in

desperate need to hope. The Caron Foundation has given so many the opportunities to make a new choice and start a new life.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, commemorating the extraordinary contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our country throughout history. During this one-month period of celebration and tribute, we honor the culture and achievements of the Hispanic community, all of which have played a historic role in our Nation.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent a region in Congress that is extraordinarily diverse and home to many citizens who are of Hispanic heritage. To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of an organization in my district committed to serving its neighbors.

Founded in 1946, La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center is a family community ministry serving 5,800 clients per year, ranging from infants to the elderly. La Casa is unique in that it is a centrally located facility addressing the multicultural needs and interests of its diverse community—primarily Hispanic and Native American working poor—in their efforts to overcome the barriers of underemployment, poverty, inadequate housing, limited education, and lack of medical care. These efforts on behalf of the community have been extraordinary.

Today, with an estimated Hispanic population of over 38 million in our country, we must also recognize that our efforts to commemorate Hispanic culture should not be limited merely to a one-month period.

In addition to recognizing great accomplishments, we must also demonstrate our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Americans. Specifically, we must ensure that educational resources are readily available to all Americans. Since the future of our children is perhaps one of our most vital priorities, educational programs such as Head Start need to be supported and funded, rather than cut from our minority communities. We must also support economic empowerment and provide economic security for all Americans and work to ensure access to health care for the uninsured and underserved.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community and this Nation." As we reflect on Mr. Chavez's words and on this month of festivities and celebrations to honor Hispanic-Americans, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to civil rights for all Americans and promote increased representation in Government from all facets of our diverse country.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Wayne Public Library, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary of service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

Founded in June, 1923, and tucked within the Morrison and John Shoe Store on Michigan Avenue, the library was run by Ms. Emma John, the shoe store owner's daughter, who lent out the initial stock of 500 volumes to some 886 registered patrons in-between waiting on shoe customers.

My, how times—and shoe styles—have changed.

Today, the Wayne Public Library operates in a state-of-the-art facility of 24,000 square feet, which houses both Adults' and Children's reading rooms; meeting rooms; reference services; and numerous special events and classes for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking the Wayne Public Library for their 80 years of outstanding service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mental Health Awareness Week. With the Census Bureau reporting yesterday that the number of people without health insurance shot up last year by 2.4 million, the largest increase in a decade, raising the total to 43.6 million, showing there is no hiding that our Nation is facing a health crisis. The reason behind this remarkable increase has been blamed on soaring health costs and many workers losing coverage provided by their employers. Although it is usually a misconception that those who are uninsured are also unemployed, the number of full-time workers without health insurance rose by 897,000 last year, to 19.9 million. Among people living in poverty, 49 percent of those worked full-time were uninsured. Beside a lack of information and education about mental illness, being uninsured plays a significant role on whether an individual reaches out for help or even receives treatment.

In our Nation, one percent of the population has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, one percent has been diagnosed with manic depression and between 5–10 percent of Americans will experience at least one episode of major depression. This gives us a base number of about 14–24 million individuals. If you add in the millions who suffer with panic attacks or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and include the more than four million who suffer with dementing illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease. Then if we include substance abuse and other addictive disorders, we reach a number that includes a quarter to a third of the American public who suffers with some form